

House Resolution 1780

By: Representative Carter of the 159th

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the life of Roderick Steele and naming a viaduct in his memory; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Roderick Steele was a slave boy born about 1847; and

4 WHEREAS, Roderick Steele's owner was James Potter, Trustee for I.A. Potter Estate; and

5 WHEREAS, slaves from the fields were used to help defend the Confederate line at Monteith
6 and obstruct the Augusta Road to Savannah as General Sherman marched from Atlanta to
7 the Sea and this was documented by Major Alfred L. Hartridge in *The Seige of Savannah* in
8 December, 1864; and

9 WHEREAS, according to folklore, Roderick Steele drove the water wagon and provided
10 water to all Confederate and Union soldiers during the battle at Monteith; and

11 WHEREAS, the slaves' assistance helped Confederate soldiers to detour General Sherman's
12 army through Mulberry Grove Plantation; and

13 WHEREAS, the actions of Roderick Steele and other slaves helped save Savannah from
14 destruction by prolonging General Sherman's march to Savannah; and

15 WHEREAS, he is buried in the historic Richmond Church Cemetery which is located in Port
16 Wentworth, Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, it is only fitting that the life of this courageous man be memorialized by
18 dedicating a lasting monument in his honor.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 GEORGIA that the members of this body memorialize the life of Roderick Steele and

1 dedicate the viaduct from Monteith to Meinhart over I-95 in Port Wentworth, Georgia, as the
2 Roderick Steele Viaduct.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
4 directed to place and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the road facility named in this
5 resolution.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
7 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the North Port Wentworth
8 Citizens Council and the Department of Transportation.